12. Loans to self help groups (SHGs)/NGOs for onlending to SHGs

The new segments included recently under the definition of priority sector are:

(i) loans to software industry having a credit limit not exceeding Rs. 1 crore,

(ii) loans to the food and agro-based processing sector,

(iii) investment by banks in venture capital.

(c) The target of 40 per cent of Net Bank Credit for lending to the priority sector has not been raised after the inclusion of these new segments under priority sector.

Notification of anti-dumping recommendations

538. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of recommendations of Anti-Dumping Duty have been received by the CBEC during the last six months for imposition of preliminary or final findings;

(b) whether out of all the Anti-Dumping preliminary and final recommendations in part (a), all recommendations are more than two months old and have not been notified by Finance Ministry for implementation of the recommendations; and

(c) if so, the reasons thereof and whether this delay in implementation of preliminary or final recommendations defeat the purpose of giving genuine relief to the Indian Domestic Industry, by the way of timely imposition of recommended Anti-Dumping Duty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) 16 recommendations of Anti-Dumping Duty were received by the CBEC during the last six months.

(b) No, Sir. Only one out of the 16 recommendations is more than two months old and not notified by the Finance Ministry.

(c) On examination of the preliminary findings in the said case, in the Finance Ministry it was observed that the Designated Authority did not take into account certain relevant parameters while making the recommendations. It was, therefore, decided to await the final findings of the Designated Authority before taking a decision in the matter. The final findings dated the 21st January, 2000 have since been received and are under examination.

Implementation of uniform Sales Tax

539. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the uniform rates of Sales Tax has been implemented by all the States;

(b) if not, the names of those States which have not switched over to the new system and the reasons therefor; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in order to secure uniform implementation of the new system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The States of Haryana, Bihar, Jammu & Kashmir, Goa, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh have not implemented uniform floor rates of sales tax. Since the decision regarding uniform floor rates was taken by all the States by consensus, Government of India is persuading them to implement it.